

Norfolk Boreas Offshore Wind Farm

Applicant's Cover

Letter for Deadline 2

Applicant: Norfolk Boreas Limited
Document Reference: ExA.CL.D2.V3
Deadline 2

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Our ref:
VJR2/JT8/47583.36
Your ref:
EN010087

Dear Sirs

Norfolk Boreas Limited
Development Consent Order (DCO) application for Norfolk Boreas Offshore Wind Farm
Application Ref: EN010087

Deadline 2 Submissions

We write further to the Planning Inspectorate's Rule 8 letter dated 19 November 2019 (the **Rule 8 letter**). In accordance with the examination timetable at Annex A of the Rule 8 letter, we enclose the following in response to Deadline 2:

1. Written Representation (with an Executive Summary included at the start of the document)
2. Responses to the Examining Authority's (**ExA**) Written Questions
3. Statements of Common Ground (**SoCG**)
4. Schedule of Mitigation
5. Notification of the Applicant's wish to speak at a Compulsory Acquisition Hearing and the Issue Specific Hearings in January 2020
6. Other information (Additional Submissions) as requested by the ExA.

The Applicant refers the ExA to the Guide to the Application (Document Reference 1.4 (Version 4)) for a full list of documents submitted by the Applicant at Deadline 2.

Action Points from Issue Specific Hearing 1 and 2

Action Points from Issue Specific Hearing 1 (**ISH 1**) on the Development Consent Order were published on 14 November 2019; and Action Points arising from Issue Specific Hearing 2 (**ISH 2**) into environmental matters were published on 15 November 2019.

As the Applicant noted in the Deadline 1 cover letter (document reference: REP1-001), the Applicant has addressed a number of Action Points due for Deadline 2 at Deadline 1. The Applicant has therefore produced an Action Point tracker to signpost where each Action Point from ISH 1 and ISH 2 is

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addressed. This document has been provided with the Deadline 2 submissions (document reference ExA.AS-11.D2.V1).

National Trust

The Applicant is pleased to note that the National Trust wrote to the Planning Inspectorate on 28 November 2019 to withdraw their objection to the Norfolk Boreas project. This also addresses Action Point 16 from ISH 1.

Statements of Common Ground

The Applicant has progressed matters with stakeholders in relation to SoCGs. The Applicant has submitted drafts of SoCGs to stakeholders for input but the Applicant has not received comments back from the National Farmers Union (NFU). Therefore, the NFU SoCG submitted at Deadline 2 is yet to be agreed by the NFU; notwithstanding this, the Applicant considers that it might assist the Examining Authority to see an updated version of the SoCG from the Applicant's perspective. The Applicant will of course seek to continue to progress discussions with stakeholders throughout the course of the examination.

As the ExA are aware, in their response to the Rule 6 letter Natural England explained that they are not proposing to issue mid-examination SoCGs (i.e. at Deadlines 2 and 6); instead, Natural England proposes to work with the Applicant to submit a final SoCG, once all issues have been either resolved or progressed as far as possible (i.e. at Deadline 9). Whilst Natural England propose to submit a Risk and Issues Log at each deadline, in accordance with the Rule 8 letter the Applicant has updated the SoCG as a record of the Applicant's understanding on how issues have been progressed with Natural England. Although the Applicant has discussed the points within the SoCG with Natural England, in view of Natural England's position outlined above, final updates to the Deadline 2 SoCG have not been approved by Natural England. It should, however, be noted that the Applicant considers that progress is being made with Natural England.

The Applicant has progressed discussions with NATS En-Route plc (**NATS**) and is pleased to note that NATS wrote to the Planning Inspectorate on 9 December 2019 to confirm that, subject to the inclusion of a suitable requirement in the dDCO to secure the agreed mitigation solution, NATS has no objection to the Application. The agreed form of requirement referred to in NATS' letter is included in the dDCO at Requirement 34. In view of this, a Statement of Common Ground with NATS has not been submitted at Deadline 2.

The Applicant has outlined its approach to SoCGs further within the Statement of Commonality (document reference: ExA; Commonality; 10.D1.4 (version 2)).

Notification of wish to make oral representations

Annex A of the Rule 8 letter also requested, amongst other things, Interested Parties to notify the Planning Inspectorate of any intention to speak at a Compulsory Acquisition Hearing or the Issue Specific Hearings in January 2020. Accordingly, the Applicant hereby notifies the Planning Inspectorate of its wish to attend these hearings and make oral representations.

We would be grateful if you could kindly confirm safe receipt.

Yours faithfully

Womble Bond Dickinson (UK) LLP